(b) if so, the steps taken/being taken to rescue and save Vikrant from such damage?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) The attention of the Government was drawn to the deteriorating condition of INS Vikrant by the Naval authorities, who sought funds for carrying out repairs to Vikrant prior to the onset of the monsoons.

(b) the Government of India has sanctioned Rs. 5 crores for urgent reparis of Vikrant. The ship is scheduled for dry docking at Naval Dockyard, Mumbai, shortly.

Visit of Chinese AIR Force Delegation

304. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a fifty member Chinese air force delegation visited India's air defence installations in July this year;

(b) if so, the main purpose and objectives of the delegation's visit indicating the air defence stations and installations visited and inspected by them; and

(c) the agreements or MoUs signed with the delegation?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The delegation consisted of officers of the Peoples Liberation Army Air Force Air Command College. As part of their curriculum, they visit a number of countries, India being one of them.They visited a radar unit, which is an air defence installation near Delhi. It was a visit and not an inspection.

(c) No agreements or MoUs were signed.

Fire accidents in ordnance depot

†305. SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large quantity of explosives and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.